

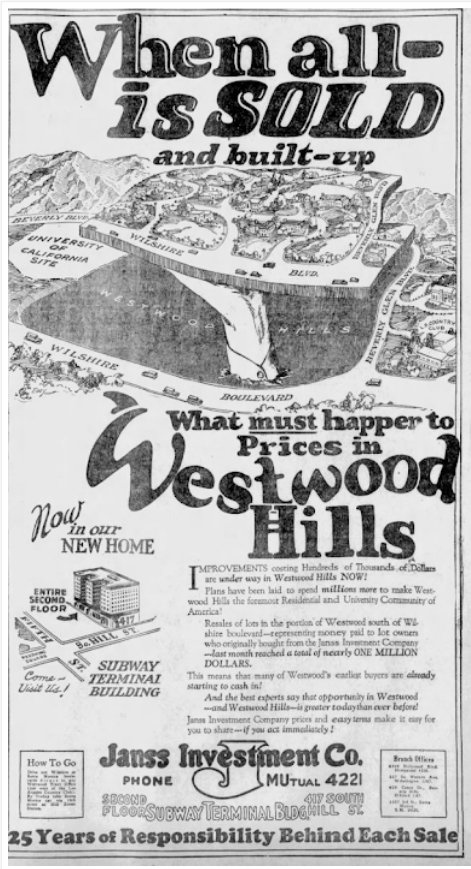
UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

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Sunday, June 8, 2025

Early Westwood Development



Early Westwood development. Note: "University of California Site" in upper left corner.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=23868700316074742>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 7:54 AM No comments: Labels: miscellaneous, UCLA

Conversion Cost Shock

We have posted in the past about plans at systemwide to convert UC to a common calendar - presumably featuring semesters rather than quarters. (Use the search option on this blog and search for "common calendar.") In the past, the official UCOP line was this is just an idea - nothing to see here. But the just-an-idea seems to persist. And there are big one-time costs being estimated at a time when UC is experiencing budget pressures. From the [Bruin](#):



UC is considering transitioning all its campuses to a common semester calendar – but some faculty members are concerned about costs, workload and a lack of staff input. The proposal is being developed by the Academic Planning Council Workgroup, a group formed by UC Executive Vice President and Provost Katherine Newman and UC Academic Senate Chair

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

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Steven Cheung. The APC workgroup consists of 28 members – including members of the Academic Senate, administrators and students across the UC system – and is researching the implications of a calendar change. The APC workgroup began to research the logistics of a potential calendar shift last fall and released a 20-page summary report for community feedback.*

A UC Office of the President spokesperson said in an emailed statement that semester systems are the standard across the country and added that a shift to this system would better align the UC with California community colleges, California State University and universities within the Association of American Universities. He also said the UC is still in the process of exploring this change. “Converting to a common semester calendar would also simplify transfer from community colleges to UC, support cross-campus enrollment, and could create better internship pathways for students and new research and collaboration opportunities for faculty,” the spokesperson said in the statement.

...Transitioning the seven campuses from the quarter system to the semester system is estimated to cost between \$290 and \$370 million, according to the APC workgroup report...

Full story at <https://dailybruin.com/2025/06/02/professors-express-concerns-about-proposal-for-uc-wide-semester-switch>.

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Below are the estimated costs of converting all campuses to a common calendar based on semesters. Some costs are attributed to Berkeley and Merced, the campuses already on semesters, to adjust them to the common calendar for all of UC.

One-time cost estimates			
	Low \$M est		High \$M est
UC Berkeley	\$	1.36	\$ 1.68
UC Davis	\$	56.51	\$ 59.90
UC Irvine	\$	35.25	\$ 49.94
UCLA	\$	61.83	\$ 76.11
UC Merced	\$	1.37	\$ 1.78
UC Riverside	\$	40.05	\$ 47.56
UC San Diego	\$	35.62	\$ 44.43
UC Santa Barbara	\$	38.30	\$ 47.49
UC Santa Cruz	\$	18.34	\$ 42.07
Systemwide Total	\$	288.62	\$ 370.96

Note: UC-San Francisco is not part of the plan.

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*<https://www.ucop.edu/institutional-research-academic-planning/content-analysis/academic-planning/draft-apc-common-calendar-workgroup-report-for-community-input.pdf>. The table above comes from this document.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [UC](#), [UC budget crisis](#), [UCOP](#)

Straws in the Wind - Part 5

From [Inside Higher Ed](#): The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Board of Trustees, after not publicly explaining why it hadn’t awarded tenure to faculty outside of health-related schools since 2025 began, granted tenure to 33 faculty members this week. “The university administration and Board of Trustees moved these personnel actions forward given the impact the deferral caused on departments,” the university said in a statement. “The university will continue to weigh all factors when considering the timing of expenditures given the current fiscal environment.” The now-tenured faculty are in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Schools of Education, Law and Information and Library Science.



...Emails of the board’s discussion that were obtained by Inside Higher Ed shed light on the months-long delay and why some trustees were hesitant to approve the tenure awards. For instance, Trustee Jim Blaine wrote Monday that he wanted to wait until July to decide because he wanted an in-person discussion and more clarity on the university’s “fiscal picture.” He objected to any “immediate reversal of the decision that was recommended to us in closed session two weeks ago.” He further said he didn’t want to reward “bad behavior.”

“It is not good governance to give your child a cookie every time they lay on the floor and scream that they want one,” Blaine wrote. “The optics on this are terrible and make the administration look weak and irresolute. The reversal of course appears responsive to public groaning and gnashing of teeth—bad behavior by a few members of the faculty.” Blaine added that he’d like “more information about who we are giving tenure to, how much demand there is for their classes, publications, and the majors they teach in, etc.” He also said that “regardless of my philosophical opposition to the outdated tenure model, I think we should proceed very cautiously and with full information before adding that kind of long-term, fixed cost.”

Trustee Marty Kotis also expressed concern in his own email over the long-term costs of tenuring professors given the university’s current financial situation. But Kotis has “consistently

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Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

opposed tenure since 2014," saying, "I find it difficult to believe university professors uniquely require lifetime job security comparable to positions held by the Pope or Federal Judges." Academic freedom advocates say tenure protects that right. But Kotis wrote that "we can preserve academic freedom through renewable contracts and robust performance reviews." ...

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/faculty-issues/tenure/2025/06/04/after-delay-chapel-hill-board-votes-award-tenure>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:    

Labels: politics, U of North Carolina

Saturday, June 7, 2025

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 16



From the [Harvard Crimson](#): A federal judge granted Harvard's request for a temporary restraining order hours after the University asked her to block the Trump administration's Wednesday proclamation banning international students from entering the United States on Harvard-sponsored visas. The order was issued just four hours after Harvard filed an amended complaint accusing the Trump administration of retaliating against the University by preventing incoming international students from entering the U.S. to attend Harvard...

Thursday's TRO will reinstate international students' ability to enter the country to attend

Harvard until a June 16 hearing scheduled by Burroughs — but the University will need to file for a preliminary injunction to extend its ability to host international students until the court determines its legality in court...

Full story at <https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2025/6/6/judge-tro-trump-proclamation/>.

The question facing Harvard is whether - even though it wins in court - can it continue to attract and retain international students given the ongoing uncertainty and litigation.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:35 AM No comments:    

Labels: diversity, Harvard, politics

Still Alive



From [Inside Higher Ed](#):

Judge Keeps Lawsuit Challenging NIH Cuts Alive

A lawsuit challenging sweeping grant cuts at the National Institutes of Health can move forward, a federal judge ruled Monday. Judge William Young of the District of Massachusetts did grant part of the Trump administration's motion to dismiss but denied the bulk of the motion, allowing the lawsuit to continue. The lawsuit is one of several challenging grant cuts at federal agencies.

In this case, individual university researchers, a public health advocacy organization and a union sued in early April, arguing that NIH officials broke the law when they canceled \$2.4 billion in grants. Specifically, the American

Public Health Association and other groups said in the initial complaint that the cancellations violated the Administrative Procedure Act as well as the Fifth Amendment and the separation of powers. The plaintiffs took issue with the cancellation notices, which told grantees that their award "no longer effectuates agency priorities." ...

Young, a Reagan appointee, found that at this stage of the case, when the facts must be viewed in the light most favorable to the plaintiffs, the government's arguments don't pass muster. "The Public Officials next argue that their explanations were reasoned and reasonable under the circumstances," he wrote. "At the motion to dismiss stage, the complaint has plausibly alleged otherwise—that the explanations are conclusory and vague.

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2025/06/03/judge-rules-keep-lawsuit-challenging-nih-cuts-alive>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:    

Labels: politics

Straws in the Wind - Part 4

From [Indiana Public Media](#): Indiana University has received almost 50 complaints since the state enacted Senate Enrolled Act 202, an "intellectual diversity" law that allows community members to report faculty conduct. SEA 202 requires faculty to teach "intellectually diverse" ideas in the classroom. If they don't, their tenure could be in jeopardy. The law went into effect ahead of the 2024 fall semester. Colleges were required to summarize their procedures to comply with the law and report the number of complaints to the Commission for Higher

Education. IU reported receiving legitimate complaints over political speech as well as complaints filed in protest against SEA 202, according to a document obtained by WFIU/WTIU News.

At least one professor was investigated for claims he violated the intellectual diversity law in the spring semester. By Dec. 31, IU handled nine complaints that claimed faculty violated SEA 202, according to its report to the commission.

"The nine complaints were about eight different situations (i.e., two of the complaints described the same situation), and involved four different IU campuses," the university reported. "Eight were about political speech in classroom settings and one was about a failure to consider alternate viewpoints on a non-political matter." ...



Full story at <https://indianapublicmedia.org/news/iu-had-almost-50-intellectual-diversity-complaints-against-faculty.php>.

Summary of SEA 202:

Amends the duties of state educational institutions' diversity committees. Provides that certain offices or individuals established or employed by a state educational institution (institution) regarding diversity programming must include within the mission of the office or position programming that substantially promotes both cultural and intellectual diversity. Establishes various requirements and restrictions for institutions regarding free inquiry, free expression, and intellectual diversity that does the following: (1) Requires the establishment of certain policies regarding: (A) disciplinary actions for certain persons that materially and substantially disrupt protected expressive activity; (B) limiting or restricting the granting of tenure or a promotion if certain conditions related to free inquiry, free expression, and intellectual diversity are not met; and (C) disciplinary actions that will be taken if, after a review, a determination has been made that a tenured faculty member has failed to meet certain criteria related to free inquiry, free expression, and intellectual diversity. (2) Requires the review and consideration, at least every five years, of certain criteria related to free inquiry, free expression, and intellectual diversity. (3) Requires the establishment of a procedure that allows students and employees to submit complaints that a faculty member or contractor is not meeting certain criteria related to free inquiry, free expression, and intellectual diversity and establishes requirements regarding the procedure and submitted complaints. (4) Establishes consideration requirements before an institution renews an employment agreement or other contract with, makes a bonus decision regarding, or completes a review or performance assessment of a faculty member or contractor. (5) Prohibits requiring an applicant, employee, or contractor to pledge allegiance to or make a statement of personal support for: (A) certain policies or actions; or (B) political or ideological movements. (6) Establishes restrictions regarding awarding admission, enrollment, employment, benefits, hiring, reappointment, promotion, or granting tenure to an applicant, employee, or contractor on the basis of the viewpoints expressed in a submitted pledge or statement. (7) Requires certain information be included in an institution's programming for new students. (8) Requires the adoption of a statement on neutrality that makes a distinction between the official positions of an institution from the individual viewpoints of the institution's employees, contractors, students, and alumni. (9) Allows the commission for higher education (commission) to establish a survey that attempts to collect information from students regarding the current perceptions of whether free speech and academic freedom are recognized and fostered by an institution in a manner that welcomes expression of different opinions and ideologies and requires an institution to promote and provide the survey to students. (10) Establishes various reporting requirements by institutions or the commission concerning complaints submitted regarding faculty members or contractors who are not meeting certain criteria related to free inquiry, free expression, and intellectual diversity. (11) Provides that certain individuals may request the commission to review a final decision by an institution concerning a violation of these provisions. Provides that the commission may enter into an agreement with the office of administrative law proceedings to review violations of certain provisions and issue an opinion on behalf of the commission. Requires each institution to submit certain information by September 1, 2024, and on September 1 of each year thereafter.

Source: <https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2024/bills/senate/202/details>.

According to the actual bill, the new law covers:

(1) Ball State University. (2) Indiana State University. (3) Indiana University. (4) Ivy Tech Community College. (5) Purdue University. (6) University of Southern Indiana. (7) Vincennes University.

Source: <https://iga.in.gov/pdf-documents/123/2024/senate/bills/SB0202/SB0202.06.ENRH.pdf>.

Labels: academic freedom, Ball State U, Indiana State U, Indiana University, politics, Purdue, University of Southern Indiana, Vincennes U

Friday, June 6, 2025

June Conversation



Chief Investments Officer Jagdeep Bachhar held another of his "conversations" on the economy, this time with John E. Waldron, president and chief operating officer of Goldman Sachs. The threat of a recession did not arise. (We'll see what the UCLA Anderson Forecast has to say on June 18th about that.) Of course, tariffs and all that came up. But there was a lot of discussion about technology such as AI and advances in the health sciences in particular - which both connected to the current cuts to higher ed and STEM-type research - and a hint that Big Pharma and the like might somehow be reaching out to the Trump folks to say that the cuts are a Bad Thing.

You can hear an audio of the conversation (actually a video with still pictures) at:

<https://ia600107.us.archive.org/25/items/becerra-announces-for-governor-4-2-2025/Bachhar-Waldron%206-2-2025.mp4>.

Note: Waldron came on about 5 minutes into the Zoom webinar.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM



Labels: audio, UC, UCLA

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